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### WCRO Fall 1996

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY of the UNITED STATES

# REGIONAL

West Coast Regional Office • Serving California, Nevada,  
Oregon, and Washington

# News!

Fall 1996

## Oregon, Washington Voters To Decide Hunting Issues



Now that voters have decisively rejected Proposition 197 and the NRA's bid to legalize trophy hunting of mountain lions in California, the political battle moves to two other Pacific Coast states: Oregon and Washington.

In Oregon, The HSUS is working to defeat a measure that will appear on the November ballot—a deceptive measure similar to California's Proposition 197. Measure 34, sponsored by the Oregon Hunters Association, would repeal Measure 18, which was overwhelmingly passed by voters in 1994 and bans bear baiting and hound hunting of black bears and cougars. Measure 34 would also provide the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission with exclusive authority to set wildlife policy in the state. The HSUS led efforts in 1995 to defeat 10 bills that would have gutted or repealed the measure, and we are now working closely with the Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition (P.O. Box 82776, Portland, OR 97282)

to protect Measure 18 and stop the trophy hunters' attempt to grab policy-making power.

In Washington, The HSUS is working with more than 65 other groups to qualify Initiative 655 (I-655) for the November 1996 ballot. I-655 would ban bear baiting and the use of dogs to hunt black bears, mountain lions, bobcats, and lynx. The Washington Wildlife Alliance (2319 N. 45th St., #203, Seattle, WA 98103; (206) 633-3435; Washwild@aol.com) is running the "Yes on I-655" campaign and is seeking to ban the cruel and unsporting practices of baiting and hounding.

For more information about how you can help, contact WCRO.



Art Wolfe

*Initiative 655 would stop the hound hunting of bears, cougars, and bobcats in Washington. Trophy hunters in Oregon are looking to overturn a similar ban passed in 1994. The HSUS believes that shooting a treed animal is unsporting.*

## Bay Area Dogfighting Operation Raided



A suspected major dogfighting operation in California was shut down in mid-March when Alameda County sheriff's deputies executed search warrants at five Bay Area locations. Assistance was provided by WCRO and officers representing eight agencies including San Francisco Animal Care and Control, Alameda County Animal Control, Fremont Animal Control, Hayward Animal Control, Oakland Animal Control, Peninsula Humane Society, Santa Clara Humane Society, and Marin Humane Society.



HSUS/Eric Salach

Officials seized 44 pit bull dogs from a breeding and training compound near Livermore and an East Oakland house, along with stacks of dogfighting publications and paraphernalia. Many of the dogs bore scars from previous fights, and others were in poor health. Three men have since been indicted for their roles in the operation, including one organizer of a regional championship dogfighting event held a year earlier in a San Francisco warehouse. That event, known as the West Coast Convention, was raided after San Francisco Animal Care and Control received a tip. The raid resulted in 75 arrests and the confiscation of more than \$50,000 in cash.

Spotlight on Disaster:The Pacific Northwest Floods

 In February, the Pacific Northwest was struck by torrential rains, causing perhaps the worst flooding to hit the area in 30 years. Working in tandem with the American Humane Association, The HSUS sent a two-person team to the area to assist with local animal disaster relief efforts. The team helped the Oregon Humane Society obtain assistance from the Oregon National Guard and accompanied them in delivering feed to 59 hungry horses, sheep, and cattle who had been without food for days. Additionally, WCRO succeeded in bringing two previously unacquainted local animal protection groups together to facilitate a successful rescue and relocation of approximately 30 stranded horses. The Pacific Northwest floods, like so many other natural calamities, once again showed that animals are also victims of disaster and must be included in the planning efforts of local, state, and federal officials.


“The West Coast Regional Office is no stranger to disasters,” said WCRO Director Eric Sakach. “In addition to our involvement in animal disaster relief efforts throughout the western states, the West Coast Regional Office has networked extensively with agencies affected by disasters and has been involved in a number of HSUS disaster preparedness workshops for local animal care and control agencies across the country.” Sakach is also serving a third term as a member of the California Veterinary Medical Association’s Disaster Preparedness Committee.

*These sheep were among the animals helped by The HSUS Disaster Relief Team and others during the Pacific Northwest floods.*



HSUS/Bob Reder

Plan to Attend Expo '97 in Orlando

 The HSUS’ sixth annual Animal Care Expo is set for February 12–15, 1997, in Orlando, Florida (trade show runs 2/13–15). Expo is a great chance for everyone who cares about animals to attend excellent workshops, learn about new techniques and products for animal care, and network with others in the field. Workshop topics range from shelter construction to disaster planning, from animal behavior to resolving wildlife issues humanely, and lots more. Call 1-800-248-EXPO for more information.



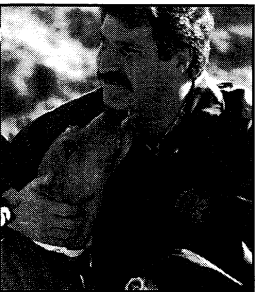
HSUS/Bob Reder

*Agents of the Oregon Humane Society and The HSUS Disaster Relief Team pass through a checkpoint to search for animals affected by the floods in the Pacific Northwest.*

Free Advice for Pet Owners from The HSUS and the American Red Cross


The best way to protect your family from the effects of a disaster is to have a disaster plan. And everyone who shares a home with companion animals should make sure that plan includes their pets. Being prepared saves lives. The HSUS and the American Red Cross have produced a helpful pamphlet for pet owners. To receive a free copy of “Pets and Disasters: Getting Prepared,” send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to WCRO.

*For more information, call 1-800-248-EXPO.*



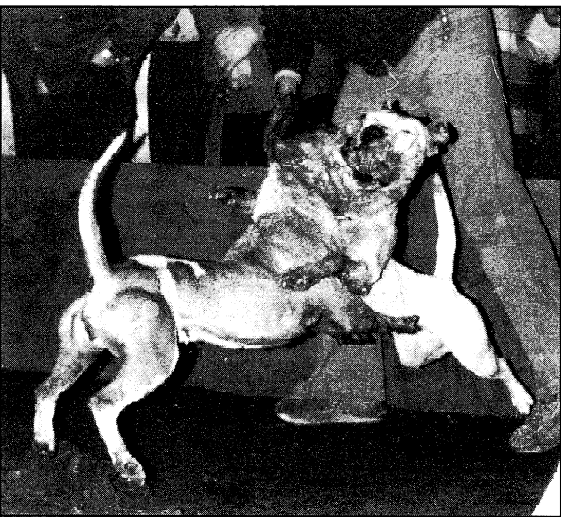
By Eric Sakach,  
Director of  
The HSUS  
West Coast  
Regional  
Office

Cruel, Illegal Animal Fighting Contests on the Rise

 Perhaps you were one of the millions who were shocked in late April and early May by a two-part exposé on *Hard Copy* about dogfighting and the theft of pets to be used as bait by those involved in this contemptible crime. *Inside Edition* followed up shortly after with their own report on the subject. The HSUS worked closely with the producers of both shows, and their reporting was brutally accurate, leaving little to the viewer’s imagination. Although we had expected some calls to our office, we didn’t anticipate hearing from so many people after those broadcasts aired. Many callers simply wanted to voice their outrage over the cruelty involved. A few anonymous callers reported information on suspected animal fighting activities. The calls that were most difficult to respond to came from people who wanted to know why such activities continue.

As we approach the 21st century, I know that “I don’t know” isn’t the kind of answer most people want to hear. I’ve asked myself the same question hundreds of times over my past 20 years of investigating the countless vile things some people do to animals.

Unfortunately, I have succeeded only in coming up with more questions than answers. How is it that despite better laws, stronger penalties, and increasingly proactive efforts on the part of many law enforcement agencies across the country, the cruel and illegal blood sports of dogfighting and cockfighting appear to be on the rise? While we’re receiving more calls for assistance from law enforcement officials and prosecutors, and the number of arrests and convictions associated with these activities seems also to be



*More than 40 pit bull dogs were seized from two Alameda County locations where authorities believe the dogs were bred and trained for illegal dogfights such as this. Blood sports such as these seem to be on the rise.*

climbing, the punishment meted out by the courts often falls far short of the penalties allowed. Is it because our jails are already overcrowded? Or because too few judges understand the serious nature of these crimes?

Indications are that more people are involved in these crimes now than at any time in our history. The underground publications for devotees of these blood sports are flourishing and continue to be sent through the U.S. Postal Service. Animal fighting is frequently a multijurisdictional matter. It is a violation of the federal Animal Welfare Act to use the mail, phone service, or other means that cross state boundaries to promote animal fighting or transport animals across state lines for the purpose of fighting. Violations have become all too common. Yet few cases are ever investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal agency charged with enforcing the Act.

Dogfighting and cockfighting exist largely because of the

*continued on page 6*

### The HSUS Helps Launch “My Pet TV”

The HSUS has joined Nightwing Entertainment in launching My Pet Television Network, a cable channel devoted to providing informative, educational, and entertaining coverage of animal issues.

Programs in development include *Focus on Volunteers*, which profiles people who’ve made extraordinary efforts to help animals, and *Lifestyles of the Rich and Furry*, about celebrity pets. The Network will also play an important role in alerting viewers to news affecting pets, such as disasters.

For information on how to order the channel, call (908) 225-1234 or write to CMI, Raritan Plaza III, 101 Fieldcrest Ave., Edison, NJ 08837.

## Legislative Update

Following is an update on legislative activity and a listing of bills that need your support. HSUS staff are constantly in contact with state legislative offices and local activists to assist in passage of humane legislation and to stop bills considered inhumane. Due to the large volume of legislation under review at any one time, we cannot mention all bills in this report. Additionally we cannot guarantee that The HSUS position on the bills will remain as reported here, as bills may be unfavorably amended. For up-to-the-minute information, and to learn how you can become more involved, write or call WCRO.

### California

**A.B. 137**, introduced by Assemblyman Olberg, requires legislative approval before any new species can be declared endangered. It also requires that saving a particular species must provide an economic benefit to the public. In addition, this bill will make compensation available to landowners whose property depreciates in value by 20 percent or more because of the presence of endangered species. *HSUS position: Oppose*

**A.B. 2605**, introduced by Assemblymen Tom Bordonaro and Bruce McPherson, contains a provision that prohibits the painful practice of face branding as a means of identifying

tuberculin cattle.

*HSUS position: Support the face branding prohibition.*

**A.B. 3151**, introduced by Assemblyman Olberg, allows anyone engaged in lawful activities (logging, mining, or land development) on lands inhabited by an endangered species to continue with their potentially destructive activity while the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) studies the species to determine if it is truly endangered. A species could be wiped out by the time the state completes its study. *HSUS position: Oppose*

**A.B. 3167**, introduced by Assemblywoman Diane Martinez, makes exporting pets

to be sold or used as food illegal. It is already illegal to import or use pets for food in California.

*HSUS position: Support*

**S.B. 1177**, introduced by Sen. Lucy Killea, will require DFG to adopt more stringent regulations and comprehensive permit guidelines for the incidental killing of endangered species. The bill will also require DFG to review applications to ensure that the killing will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

*HSUS position: Support*

**S.B. 2077**, introduced by Sen. Jack O'Connell, will give the elderly the right to own pets in mobile

home parks.

*HSUS position: Support*

Two measures that have already been acted upon include **House Resolution 37**, which asks DFG to remove ferrets from the prohibited species list, potentially opening the way for ferrets to become legal pets in California. Also, **A.B. 1571**, sponsored by Assemblyman Louis Caldera, has been signed into law. It requires additional training for state humane officers.

**Nevada**  
The Nevada State Legislature is in recess this year.

**Oregon**  
The Oregon State Legislature is currently in recess.

Possible legislation for the next session may include bills to strengthen existing restrictions on dogs riding in the back of pickup trucks, and to encourage the cross reporting of abuse cases between humane societies and local government-run animal shelters.

**Washington**  
**H.B. 2672**, sponsored by Sen. Margarita Prentice (D) and Rep. Steve Van Luven (R), was signed into law in March. The law bans greyhound racing. This bill received bipartisan support, garnering only four nay votes. Washington is now one of five states that have permanently banned the abusive sport of greyhound racing.

## Did you know that...

Cows, like people, form cliques?  
Chickens are great at networking?  
Pigs are known to be as intelligent as dogs?

These are just a few of the many fascinating behaviors and unique qualities of farm animals that will be highlighted during the fourth annual National Farm Animal Awareness Week, September 15-21, 1996.

Call WCRO for ideas on ways to promote this special week in your community.

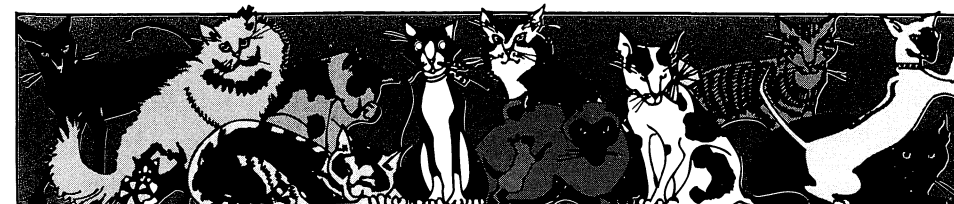


## WCRO Training for Probation Case Workers, Humane Officers

Earlier this year, case workers with the San Francisco Adult Probation Department learned about the connection between animal cruelty and human violence in a workshop featuring speakers from the San Francisco Child Abuse Council, the San Francisco Department of Animal Care and Control, and WCRO. According to WCRO Director Eric Sakach, the idea that people's treatment of animals is closely related to their treatment of people is not a new concept, but the link is finally being recognized, thanks to recent research in psychology and criminology. Sakach also served as an instructor for the Northern California Humane Officers Basic Academy, which is accredited by Santa Rosa Junior College in Marin County. Similar training sessions are planned for 1997 in southern California and the Pacific Northwest.

## Pet Overpopulation Is Focus of State and Local Councils

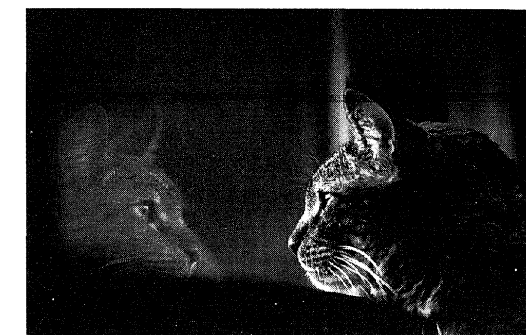
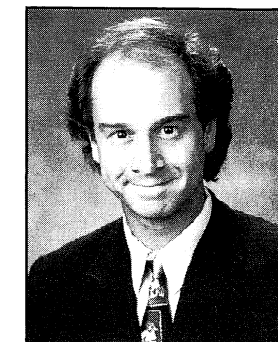
WCRO staff continue to serve on the California Council of Companion Animal Advocates and the Sacramento Pet Overpopulation Council. Both the state and the local councils are working on new ways to increase public awareness of the problems associated with pet overpopulation by networking with local, state, and national organizations; the news media; veterinarians; educators; representatives of the pet industry; and others. WCRO Director Eric Sakach currently serves on the California Council and WCRO Program Coordinator Geoff Simmons is serving on the Sacramento Council. Most recently, WCRO staff participated in the Pet Overpopulation Conference held in southern California and a kick-off event in Sacramento. For more information about the California Council or how to establish a council in your community, please write to Bette Morgan, CVMA Staff Liaison, CVMA/CCCAA, 5231 Madison Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841.



## WCRO Welcomes New Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Geoffrey Simmons has joined the WCRO staff as program coordinator. He comes to us from the Animal Protection Institute (API), where he worked as a companion animal advocate, spearheading various campaigns and representing API in legislative matters. Geoffrey earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Texas Tech University, and prior to choosing an animal protection career he

interned with Sen. Robert Presley, the former chairman of the California Senate Appropriations and Legislative Prison Committee.



Carol Guzy

## Reflect for a moment...

*How can I help animals and receive income and tax savings at the same time?*

By making a planned gift to The Humane Society of the United States, you can assure that animals will receive the protection they need while providing significant tax savings and income to yourself. Naming The HSUS as a beneficiary of your estate or trust demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for future tasks. We will be happy to send our latest information on planned giving and our programs to help animals.

Mail this coupon in the envelope enclosed or send it directly to The Humane Society of the United States, WCRO, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220.

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illegal gambling involved, and the sums of money wagered can be phenomenal. But forms of legalized gambling already exist that do not involve the purposeful maiming and killing of animals. And the fact is that some people are simply entertained by watching these cruel spectacles.

Fights between animals have been staged for thousands of years throughout the world. The blame for their existence cannot be placed with any one ethnic group or culture. And what about the explosion in street-level dogfighting in crime-ridden neighborhoods and inner-city boroughs? The ages of those involved range from pre-teen on up; many of these youths are involved in gangs and have records for other serious crimes.

The sad fact that people are still titillated by watching animals die horribly in a pit says something nasty about where we are as a society. This is especially disturbing in light of what we now know about the connections between cruelty to

animals and violence directed toward people. Certainly, the reasons for the apparent upsurge in popularity of such a shameful and ugly side of human nature are complex. And while I still don't know the answers to all these questions, I do know there is much to do if we are to change the direction in which we are headed as a society.

Toward that end, The HSUS is committed to increasing training for local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges. We have prepared new training materials and are providing them to various criminal justice and allied agencies. We are also committed to establishing a regional animal fighting task force, consisting of law enforcement and animal protection agencies from throughout this region that have indicated an interest in meeting the challenge of ending illegal blood sports.

## Contacting WCRO.....

Write: HSUS West Coast  
Regional Office  
P.O. Box 417220  
Sacramento, CA 95841-7220  
Call: (916) 344-1710  
Fax: (916) 344-1808

## There's no place like home.

The HSUS Wildlife Land Trust protects wild animals by permanently preserving their natural habitats and providing them sanctuary within those habitats.

We accept tax-deductible donations—including tax-deductible donations of wildlife-abundant properties where thereafter wild animals are permanently protected.

### Please help us save wildlife.

If you have property that should be permanently protected, please contact

THE HSUS West Coast Regional Office  
P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220  
(916) 344-1710

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## Wild Predators Need Your Help in Oregon and Washington

Help The HSUS defeat Oregon's Measure 34, which attempts to overturn the ban on hound hunting of black bears and cougars and bear baiting. In Washington, support ballot Initiative 655, which will stop bear baiting and hound hunting of black bears, cougars, bobcats, and lynx. Contact WCRO for more information about how you can help.

The Regional Report is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220; (916) 344-1710. Eric Sakach, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and is closed on federal holidays. ©1996 by The Humane Society of the United States. All rights reserved. A COPY OF THE LATEST FINANCIAL INFORMATION FILED BY THE HSUS MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE HSUS, Office of the Treasurer, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, (202) 452-1100; or in Washington, The Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 98504-0422, or by calling 1-800-332-4483. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY ANY STATE.